Weather

Fair, Unchanged
High 94, Low 65
Map, Page 2

THE DAILY

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Soviet Missiles Turned

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Russians are in process of turning over operation of anti-aircraft missile systems at 24 bases in Cuba to the Cuban armed forces, according to the best information available to officials in Washington.

The surface-to-air missiles (Sams) are considered by U. S. authorities to be very modern weapons capable of shooting down high-flying U. S. jet reconnaissance planes.

It is understood in official quarters here, however, that the Soviet government has warned Prime Minister Fidel Castro against any trigger-happy firing at the American aircraft which regularly fly reconnaissance missions in the Cubans skies, as they have since the October, 1962, missile crisis.

Soviet policy at this point does not call for a revival of brinksmanship in the Caribbean, U. S. officials note.

Furthermore, indications are that the central command set up for the Sam sites still is in control of Soviet officers. The turn over of operations to Cubans is reported to have been occurring at the bases scattered around the island, as the Soviets move toward completion of the withdrawal of their troops from Cuba.

Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Cuba is continuing at a steady rate, according to authoritative U. S. information. About 600 to 800 officers and men are report-

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Over to Cuban Army Crews

ed to have gone from Cuba in the last month.

Some Washington officials estimate that this still leaves from 1,000 to 1,200 more Soviet military personnel in Cuba than are to be stationed there permanently as a training mission.

The training mission, according to information obtained by the U. S. government, will number around 800 to 1,000 officers and men.

The state department said Friday that the training of Cuban personnel to operate the missiles has been under way for such a long time that the Cubans undoubtedly are ready to assume control at any time.

However, it was learned authoritatively that from various sources of information on Cuba the government has substantial evidence that command of the missiles has changed hands.

Recently there have been published reports, supported by officials here, that the most advanced Russian radar system installed in connection with the missile bases had been dismantled and withdrawn. This is interpreted to mean that the ability of the Sam sites in Cuban hands to knock down U. S. U-2 reconniassance planes has been reduced.

Should the Cubans use the missiles to attack and perhaps shoot down a U. S. reconnaissance plane, such an event, officials said, would bring on a new and potentially very dangerous Cuban crisis.